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127 **Astley's** Projects in his management of the Horse; rendering it calm on the road, in harness, etc. Such requirements may prevent dreadful accidents. Being an abridgement of his popular and most valuable book of Equestrian Education. To which is prefixed many excellent remedies for the diseases in horses, etc. London. 1804.

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A. 1.

Hugh Cecil Earl of Lonsdale

Sketch of M.r Astleys System

☞ for Explanation of Letters and Figures see next page

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1804.

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ENTERED AT STATIONERS'-HALL.

EXPLANATION

OF THE

General Apparatus in the Frontispiece.

A—Cavesson and cord.

B—Snaffle-reins, intended to adjust the given point, or exact position of the horse's head.

C, D—The breast-plate belonging to the buckle-surcingle, bearing-rein, crupper, &c. and intended to keep the whole secure.

1—Professor in the act of working the horse; circle to the left.

2—His assistant, in each hand a pistol, waiting for the signal from the professor.

3—The position of the horse's head.

4—The cavesson cord; two small rings thereon.

5—A small hand-line (passed through two small rings to keep it steady), occasionally used to refresh the horse's mouth, and to render it sensible to the motion of the hand, when the professor judges proper to ease him and reward his labour.

6—The leather buckle-surcingle, communicating with the breast-plate, crupper, bridle-reins, bearing-reins, &c.

7—The

7—The chambriere.

8—A basket, containing (the supposed) rewards, viz. corn, carrots, apples, pears, &c.

9—A drum, for the familiarizing a horse to it, when wanted.

10—A flag, used for the like purpose.

11—A trumpet, to sound on similar occasions.

12—Fire-works of different explosions, intended to be let off at the will and pleasure of the professor, either by the assistance of a rope-match, lighted, or by the leader of such fire-works being conducted to the pan of a pistol, primed only—for the like purpose—the pistol being previously made fast to the pillar, &c. according to art.

13—Sketch of a bag to be filled with any given weight of sand, the more effectually to habituate the horse to bear his rider; and which the author buckles round the horse for such purpose.

14—Sketch of a spur-stick, six feet long, used on various occasions; also to accustom the horse to the use of the spur, previously to his being mounted.

15—The assistant's dog, which he occasionally causes to bark, at the pleasure of the professor.

16—A small hand-whip, hung on the pillar, for the use of the professor.

ADVER-

ADVERTISEMENT.

STRONGLY desirous, that (by a cheap Edition) *the rising Generation, more particularly all* Farriers, Horse-dealers, Grooms, Coachmen, Huntsmen, Hostlers, Postboys, *and every description of* Persons *intrusted with the care of* Horses, *should be fully acquainted with (what I term) the very* Essence *of managing that noble and useful animal, thereby rendering it* calm and obedient! *my general observations* on this head *(at home and abroad) have from time to time been a series of careful and constant attention for upwards of forty years; and it has also been my* chief study and practice, *during that period, to select the best and most useful parts of the Equestrian Science! which not only improves the cunning of man in directing the horse to every useful purpose, but may prevent us falling a sacrifice to our own imprudence.*

Sage professors of this art, though past the executive part, *may guard the unexperienced Horseman against the anger and ferocity of the horse; and I trust the reader will, after due perusal of this work, be thoroughly convinced of the truth and propriety of what is advanced.*

Convinced that it is not in mortals "to command success," I have always endeavoured "to deserve it;" and I trust, my patrons have been well assured of every exertion, on my part, to render myself worthy of that liberality, which has ever been the pride of my heart to obtain.

I am,
With becoming gratitude and respect,
The Public's
Most obedient, and
Most devoted humble servant,
PHILIP ASTLEY,
Professor of the Art of Riding, &c.

Hercules Hall, Lambeth,
London, 1804.

ARGUMENT.

OF all the Creatures none yields so much pleasure and profit as the Horse; yet, for want of proper management, and falling into unskilful hands, he too frequently proves fatal to his rider! In the Horse one sees the courage of the lion, the strength of the ox, the swiftness of the deer; and, what is still greater, a wonderful docility.—To employ all his qualities to the advantage of men, by his labour we visit foreign countries and reap the advantages of our own, or supported in peace and defended in War.—In the Horse the rich man finds pleasure, and the poor man profit; in health he forwards our business, and in sickness lends his willing assistance for our recovery.

This fine and spirited animal participates with man the toils of the campaign, and the glory of conquest; penetrating and undaunted as his master, he views dangers, and braves them; accustomed to the din of arms, he loves it with enthusiasm, seeks it with ardor, and seems to vie with his master in his animated efforts to meet the foe with intrepidity, and to conquer every thing that opposes itself to his courage; he serves with all his strength; and in his strenuous efforts to please, oft-times out-does himself, and even dies in order the better to obey !!!

With regard to the proper care and nourishment of the horse, I am strongly of opinion, and indeed I have found it so by practice, that (chaff) cut straw, of the best quality, being mixed with good oats, and given in equal quantities, or even two thirds of chaff to one of corn (provided the straw is really good) somewhat moistened with water, renders the horse still more vigorous and hardy: it not only cleanses but nourishes the body, and keeps him in health.—For my own part, I give it daily to all my horses (draught and riding),

riding), and strongly recommend its general practice; not altogether in point of œconomy, (which is certainly very great where a number of horses are kept), but from my being convinced of its great utility; to which may be added, the rendering the Horse's coat more beautiful. This brings to my mind a little French proverb, thus translated by me:

Horses fed with corn and hay,
May suit the delicate and gay;
But less of hay, with corn and straw,
Will bear them through the toils of war!!

Thus the reader will see my point of argument in favour of cut straw is founded not only on my practice, but on the authority of men of science in other countries.—The next point, on preserving horses in health, is not only the attention paid to this part of the food, but also to the quantity of water; which must likewise be of the best quality.—I give the preference to that of running streams or rivers.—It so happens, that Horses are more or less, at particular seasons of the year, in camp, &c. troubled with a cold (after hard riding, &c.) which, if neglected, brings on other

other diseases.—My practice has been immediately, on discovering such, to dissolve six ounces of honey in a quart of boiling water; this I give when cold, twice or thrice a day, by the assistance of a horn or bottle, until the cough decreases, and the running at the nose, if any there be, diminishes. Honey for Horses is certainly of singular benefit; it is an excellent balsamic, a very good diuretic, and not a bad stomatic.—As a restorative it performs wonders; it is very penetrating and deterging; opens all obstructions in a surprising manner; it cannot be given too often where the disease is acute.—While I was in *Paris*, an influenza called the gripes, attended with a fever, raged with great violence in that city among all ranks of people. A medical friend of mine informed me, that it was found by experience that Honey, dissolved in thin water gruel, and repeatedly given in small quantities in this disorder had afforded much relief; and in fevers in general was found highly beneficial.—Indeed I have always had a very high opinion of honey, if of the

the best quality, having taken it from my infancy, and found it very conducive to health.

Horses troubled with a cold or cough, may, if neglected, become subject to a permanent disease. Men of sense deem a cough to be unsoundness; for they justly observe that such complaints may for want of proper and timely remedies terminate in a consumption, &c. To relieve the cough, and prevent acute diseases of this nature, honey, given as above directed, with the assistance of half a peck of bran made into a warm mash, well mixed up with a handful of linseed and half a table spoonful of sulphur, given in small quantities twice or thrice a day, I have found highly beneficial! for on long journies I am totally against either *bleeding* or *rowelling*, as they greatly diminish the animal strength. See Chap. 8. page 37.—Lastly, let me intreat my readers to be very cautious with regard to the quantity of water given to Horses, overloading the stomach is pernicious in the extreme, particularly when warm or travelling.

CON-

AN

EXPOSITION OF THE CONTENTS.

CHAP. I.

With regard to avoiding danger and preventing accidents in general, the reader will have the goodness to pay strict attention to p. 12, beginning at the 15th line from the top; also pages 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 and 21, more particularly 26, 27, 28 and 29. I am strongly persuaded if my system, therein fully delineated, is adopted and practiced, many valuable lives may be saved.

CHAP. II.

The late Lords Heathfield (General Elliot) and Pembroke, as well as the late Sir Sidney Meadows, (three of the most scientific Equestrians of the old school) were unanimous in their opinions, that in purchasing Horses for timid riders much circumspection was necessary.—Their practice was, to have Horses which they intended to buy (for immediate riding) brought from their stalls in a halter, the rein of such halter placed in the Horse's

Horse's mouth instead of the bridle, and in this manner rode bare-backed: for they observed, and with great propriety, that if the Horse properly executed the walk, trot and gallop, (thus equipped) calmly, there was every probability of his being sufficiently steady in the snaffle.—See page 15, 16 and 17.

CHAP. III.

The greatest circumspection is necessary in caparisoning the Horse, I therefore refer the reader to pages 18 and 19 on this head.

CHAP. IV.

Proves the great impropriety of the present practice of instructing Horses to leap; and demonstrates the necessity of rewards and temperance on the part of the Horseman. See pages 20 and 21, explanatory of my general practice, not only improving Horses in such exercise, but also learning them to leap hedge or ditch flying or standing, with agility, ease and safety.

CHAP. V.

Natural paces of the Horse, the walk, the trot and the gallop.—I conceive that I have, in pages 22, 23, 24 and 25, given some useful

ful and strong hints on this head, which if duly noticed by the young practitioner, will not only improve the Horse in such paces, but also, in every sense of the word, be the means of preserving the Horseman from accident.—In short, I consider the very essence of security to both comprised in this Chapter.

CHAP. VI.

I conceive that no project whatever can tend more to prevent accidents from Horses drawing carriages than that which I have noticed in this Chapter; but it is highly necessary that a strict compliance with what I have there advanced on this point should be strictly complied with.—The Horse may be considered as a reasonable animal; consequently reason should guide the Horseman, not only in instructing him to draw carriages of various descriptions calmly, but also while drawing such on long journeys, preserving his strength, health, &c. See pages 28 and 29.

CHAP. VII.

The contents of this Chapter are founded on long practice, in regard to feeding, grooming, &c. Persons interested in preserving the Horse in health, will, on a candid perusal of this Chapter, find the propriety of what is advanced.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Noticing the best and most speedy remedies, for recovering Horses that are indisposed on long journeys.—I am certain that eight cases out of ten may be greatly relieved, if not totally cured, by a strict adherence to a proper regimen of diet therein recommended.—Indeed, I am emboldened to advance thus much, from that experience which I have so repeatedly had in my travels both at home and abroad. See pages 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39.

CHAP. IX.

It sometimes so happens that notwithstanding every care and attention to the management of Horses, some diseases may require rather more assistance than what is simply mentioned in the preceding Chapter with regard to a proper regimen.—I have in consequence thereof selected various receipts for the several disorders to which that noble animal is most subject. I recommend them as valuable beyond all calculation; such have been their great benefits to me in the course of my practice, that I should consider myself ungrateful if I omitted them.—See pages 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66.

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ASTLEY's PROJECTS.

CHAPTER I.

Backing and breaking Colts or ungovernable Horses; teaching them calmly to bear the glittering of small arms, to stand the explosion of ordnance, the sound of trumpets, drums, waving of flags, motions of soldiers, and objects of every kind, that may alarm their sight or hearing.

THE horse intended to be broken, or, in other words, brought to his duty, should be carefully led to the place of exercise, which is supposed to be a circle of from eight to ten yards diameter; care is to be taken at the same time, that his stomach be not too much loaded with food or water.

Your chief endeavours must be directed, with easy and deliberate approaches, to convince him, that neither you, nor your assistant is his enemy; to do this effectually, you are to encourage him by kind words, such as, *so, so! so, so! so ho!* endeavouring always to imitate the same TONE OF VOICE, which he will very soon comprehend in a MOST EXTRAORDINARY MANNER; more particularly if you do not CHANGE THE SOUND; also rubbing him, and

wiping his eyes and nostrils with your handkerchief, giving him to eat a small piece of carrot, or a slice of a good sweet apple, and other similar inducements, by WAY OF REWARD. Here I have only to hint, that in point of smelling, tasting, seeing, and hearing, I conceive the horse to have the superiority over, and, in point of sagacity, no inferiority to any of the brute creation; that is to say, if such sagacity be directed by proper judgement.

But in all these endeavours TO RENDER THE HORSE CALM! you must be careful at first (until your quick eye shall have discovered his real disposition,) not to be too familiar with him before you have some dominion over him, lest he should strike you with his feet; which, I conceive, the above rewards will, in some measure, prevent;—but more of this hereafter.

The apparatus for this business, consists, first, of a mouthing bridle or snaffle; second, a leather strong pad surcingle with three strong buckles on each side; two of which, four inches apart, nearly in a line with the horse's withers, the other four, at the same distance on each side below; also between the two first, and exactly in a line with the horse's withers, a strong buckle and billet, for the purpose of receiving the snaffle rein; to this surcingle a large ring must be placed, to receive a strong crupper, with a large dock; third, a *cavesson*; fourth, two strong *cavesson* straps, buckle and billet at one end, at the other, holes; fifth, two ditto snaffle or bridle straps, with buckle and billets at one end, and holes at the other; sixth, one hand or *cavesson* line of six or seven yards long; with a strong buckle and billet at one end; the rope about three quarters of an inch diameter, and three rings fastened to it, but so as to play. First ring, three feet from the buckle and billet; second, five feet;

feet; third, seven feet;* also a small bridle or snaffle line, with a small buckle or billet at the end; this line runs through the rings of the *cavesson* cord, and buckles to the snaffle or mouthing bit; lastly, a *chambriere*, (or whip,) and a spur-stick of about two yards long, the rowel blunt.†

Suppose you put on the *cavesson*, as above described, also the surcingle, with or without the crupper, as your judgement shall direct you; likewise *cavesson* and bridle straps, furthermore the *cavesson* and bridle line.

Bear up his head a little with the bridle or mouthing bit rein, to the buckle and billet of the surcingle; the rein of the bridle should have a buckle, in order to shorten it at pleasure; the whole of the bridle and *cavesson* straps must, at the same time, be somewhat tightened; that is to say, *three holes* shorter to the hand you intend to work him to; and as he foreshortens, and raises his head at the time of action, *your judgement must direct you;* namely, how much his head ought to be raised in point of elegance, as well as his neck bent, so as not to impede his action; the greatest precaution is necessary to be taken, that neither the one nor the other give him the least uneasiness, the first or second day.—Cause him to be led by your assistant round the circle; say, in order to your having greater dominion over him, to the left; continue the action of a good bold walk for three or four minutes, if he pleases you in the walk, put him in the action of the trot, continuing it five or six minutes. Your assistant having a drum near you,

* Most sadlers are qualified to complete this business; but should they not thoroughly comprehend the description, the engraving in the frontispiece will more particularly explain it.

† See frontispiece.

strike it, as a signal for him to halt from his SUPPOSED LABOUR; if he disobey it from fright, or not understanding the intention of the signal, cause him to trot round the circle again, in the same manner as before, for a few minutes; and thus repeat the signal, BUT NOT SO LOUD, and exercise him until he learns to halt in obedience to it; yourself assisting him in this business, with all your judgement. Should he express much fear at the sound, endeavour all you can, by your caresses and encouragement, to convince him that it is not meant to hurt or to terrify him, but as a kind of language by which he is to UNDERSTAND YOUR DESIRES.

In order to impress him the deeper and sooner with the meaning of this language, let it always be used as a signal for the END OF HIS LABOUR OR EXERCISE.

The grand secret is, invariably to use a soothing tone of voice, as before directed, and the reward of an APPLE or CARROT, when he shews obedience.

The sound or musical expression the horse most readily becomes acquainted with, and the correction being in a much stronger and different tone of voice, such as A! HA! HA! WONDERFUL TO SAY, the horse readily obeys the one through HOPE OF REWARD, and the other THROUGH A SENSE OF FEAR. Somewhat in like manner, we find the cart and waggon horse obey the sound. The London carmen and the provincial waggoners direct their horses to move right and left, &c. with the DIFFERENCE OF SOUNDS MERELY; now let the Londoner take the countryman's horses, and the countryman the Londoner's; or an Englishman the horse of a Frenchman, or *vice versa*, this point will clearly elucidate my argument.

Hence

Hence arises the great necessity of every horseman being thoroughly acquainted with the disposition of his horse, more particularly when he is YOUNG OR REFRACTORY. Moreover I have considered signals of this kind, as the very foundation or ground-work of instructing horses to PAW WITH THEIR FEET THE EXACT HOUR AND MINUTE OF THE WATCH; nod as an AFFIRMATIVE, and shake the head as a NEGATIVE, to any QUESTION PROPOSED.

Furthermore, it is the very essence of educating them, to take up from the ground a handkerchief, hat, whip, spur, sword, pistol, or any thing within the compass of their abilities, which the fancy of the instructor may conceive either for utility, or the amusement of spectators.

Having taught him, by repeated trials, the full extent of this lesson, which I call, from its being the firſt, letter A; we proceed to teach him the next, which may be called, by way of illustration of the argument, letter B: that is, to exercise him to the right, precisely in the same way and manner as you did to the left; using the same signal, reward, and gentle punishment. Care must be taken to make his neck bend agreeably;—likewise, that his head be neither fixed too high nor too low; if the former, place the straps to the lower buckles; if the latter, place them to the upper buckles of the surcingle; but in all this, EXPERIENCE and JUDGEMENT must be your guides; for if he carry his head too low, and you do not, on the first day, correct this capital fault, it will give you the GREATEST TROUBLE to raise it hereafter; in my opinion, a horse cannot carry his head too high, if PURE OBEDIENCE and good action accompany it. To the military man this may be called a defence to the body,

against SMALL SHOT, or the point of the SWORD: it certainly, in SINGLE COMBAT, gives the horseman a SUPERIORITY over his OPPONENT above all calculation; if the head be too high, it is very easy to lower it, for the moment you come to mount him, if you have the least skill, you will correct this point very easily.

In the lesson to left and right, I give them as follows: three quarters of an hour gentle exercise to the right, and half an hour to the left; that is to say, short lessons of five minutes given each time both ways, and an interval of reward two or three minutes between each.

Having thus settled the management of his head, and PURE ACTION in the WALK and TROT, strictly observing the general rule, never to let his CROUP INCLINE TO THE INSIDE OF THE CIRCLE, on the contrary, every caution must be used to prevent it; care, I repeat, must be taken, not to impede his action, nor to corrupt his *cadence*, either in the walk or trot; and if your circle be less than eight or ten yards diameter, the more judgement is requisite to prevent it.

Thus exercised, the horse begins to have some little knowledge of what you are desirous he should learn; he works with more ease, gives greater satisfaction, and you find him improve faster, in proportion as he becomes acquainted with you and his duty; more particularly, if you do not disgust him with too much SEVERITY.

When you have exercised him to be familiar with the drum, and to follow it, you then, caressing and rewarding him, proceed precisely in the same way and manner (that is to say, walk and trot, for I could wish no galloping to be resorted to during this particular lesson) to instruct him to stand the explosion of a pistol—

a pistol—making use of a very small charge—and firing of it, at first, rather behind you, and on the ground, unperceived by the horse; if he obey, be careful to assist his inclinations when inclinable to halt, by pulling the *cavesson* and bridle-line, and bring him to the centre of the circle: caress and reward as before in the lesson with the drum, increasing the explosion by degrees to a good charge, in like manner as you increase the blow on the drum-head.

Thus your care and judgement will teach him to bear the glittering of small arms, sound of trumpets, waving of flags, and every thing that may alarm his SIGHT OR HEARING.

By persisting in the foregoing lessons, four or six times a day, for a week or ten days, you will reduce him to obedience, however stubborn he may be; more particularly, if your rewards overbalance the punishment, and the latter be inflicted in PROPER TIME, and WITH JUDGEMENT!

Some horses, it must be confessed, require a considerable time to convince them, amid all these alarms, that you mean nothing inimical or unfriendly to them. But still by perseverance, you will dissipate all their apprehensions, and render them subservient to every thing you can possibly require, more particularly when great temperance is used; and nothing promotes the learning and acquiescence of the horse more (I again and again repeat it), than affording him time to reflect on what you require from him; and on the difference of being treated with kindness, when he obeys willingly, and a little severity, when he refuses with obstinacy and perverseness; he will then make his election, and choose rather to perform what he knows will not only please, but RECEIVE THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF HIS MASTER.

Exercising him in the circle, he presently finds is a SPECIES OF PUNISHMENT: and the beating of the drum, firing the pistol, &c. A KIND OF RELEASE: time should therefore be given him to discriminate between the GOOD and the EVIL, which is thus presented for his choice; or how can you expect he will be able to know which he should REFUSE or which ACCEPT? When the horse comprehends the difference, he will gradually stop, even on a smart gallop, the moment he hears any of the above signals most cordially, at your pleasure; he will either halt, diminish his action, or approach with the greatest readiness the very object that was before so much his terror.

Your horse being so far advanced in this lesson B, and the walk and trot being completed, proceed, as before, to teach him to gallop right and left, observing his *cadence*, and attending to the strict unison of the action of his legs, as well as the graceful position of his head and neck: this done, proceed with the same punishment, that is to say, the galloping round the circle every way properly, observing the signal to relieve him from such punishment, and the reward IMMEDIATELY OF THE CARROT OR APPLE. I press its being given INSTANTANEOUSLY, because the LEAST DELAY IMPEDES AND TOTALLY DESTROYS THE EFFECT INTENDED to be produced by such REWARD. First, because the horse's eye is fixed upon you; and, secondly, it is your pleasure that ought to guide him in his obedience: therefore you ought to be before him in DISCERNMENT, which, if not properly applied, may tend to give you some trouble.

Care must be taken, during your exercising him, that he be not sweated too much, and that he be never brought out for a second lesson till thoroughly dry;

dry; nor that more than a pint of water be given him at a time, and very little hay; instead of which, two or three handfuls of corn, at the end of each lesson, will greatly assist you! Here it is indispensibly necessary to observe, that, in all this exercise, you must give him time sufficient in the intervals to recover his wind: he should not be exercised again, until you perceive his lungs have recovered the proper tone of respiration; for if you force him to repeat his lesson whilst he is panting for breath, you will INEVITABLY TEACH HIM THE MOST VICIOUS AND PERVERSE HABITS, and DESTROY HIS EMULATION: being exhausted in strength and spirits, without having time allowed him to recruit himself, cannot fail of causing his exertions to be so languid, as to render it impossible he should perfect himself in any lesson you wish him to be taught. The bad habits thus acquired, you will find exceedingly difficult to correct afterwards; the greater care should consequently be used to prevent this inconvenience, which can only be done by particularly observing the caution above-mentioned during the first eight days.

The next lesson the horse is to be taught is, to carry the saddle with or without a crupper; but I would recommend the crupper and buckle surcingle to be put over the saddle; then place a bag containing a bushel of sand on the saddle, half at each end; but should the horse be too refractory to have either the saddle or the sand-bag laid across his back, tie up his near foot with a cord, using every friendly means, as before recommended, to quiet his apprehensions, until he has permitted you to place properly all that you desire on him; you must be careful not to use any VIOLENCE in this part of the lesson.

When all is thus placed, untie his foot, which is only

only drawn up to prevent his having the power of kicking you or your assistant; exercise him each way, that is, right and left, in the walk, trot, and gallop, still observing the signals, rewards, and punishments, as before directed.

Having given him a tolerable lesson with the sand-bag, take it off, in order to let your rough-rider or any other person mount, and exercise him as before; during which you must hold the *caveſſon* rein, and by every friendly means endeavour to win his confidence and obedience. Let him, in this part of the lesson, be only walked the first and second morning; but should he not willingly suffer your rough-rider to mount, or, when mounted, not carry him as he or you desire, then place the sand-bag on him again, and gallop him severely, to convince him of what he makes himself suffer from his disobedience.

When you have brought him, by these means, to let you or your assistant mount him, let him be ridden by your rough-rider every two hours, observing, that if he prove refractory you first exercise him with the sand-bag; this will make him the more desirous of being ridden gently, than of carrying this weight, under which he finds himself, as I before observed, so uncomfortable.

I would particularly recommend all quarrels to be avoided between the instructor and his horse during his teaching him these lessons; but yet, I would not advise you to stand inactive with the whip in your hand; the horse may consider this kind of indulgence as arising more from fear than from humanity: and if he should once think you are really afraid of him, you will find he will exercise every means to convince you that he considers himself YOUR MASTER, INSTEAD OF ACKNOWLEDG-

ING,

ING, by IMPLICIT OBEDIENCE, that YOU ARE HIS.

However, in teaching him where the superiority lies (I cannot desist from repeating), be sure to use your power of discipline with JUSTICE and with MERCY. The horse can reflect;—he can discriminate between deserved chastisement and unprovoked severity; and if you find it necessary to punish him for his disobedience with the whip, spur, &c. it must be on the most urgent occasions, and with the greatest moderation.

The horse being instructed in this third stage of the business, next proceed to teach him the fourth. This consists in making him thoroughly obedient to the bridle-hand;* and the various pressures of the leg, &c.

And in order to adjust his natural paces, THE WALK, TROT, and GALLOP, in a just and elegant manner; also the teaching him to rein back, turn to the right and right about; turn to the left and left about, on his own ground: and to leap, standing

* *Bridle hand, &c.* Comprehending its numerous requisites, namely, the elegant and delicate *appui*; the necessary *aids*, &c. for I consider the *appui* a kind of telegraph-communication between the bridle hand and the horse's mouth; that is to say, if the horse's mouth be delicate, fresh, sensible, and obedient to the bridle hand: but on the contrary, if the mouth be hard, callous, and the horse disobedient, the *appui* is totally lost, and of course cannot operate; thus, from the last cause, nothing but destruction stares the rider in the face: particularly in SINGLE COMBAT, &c. in the field of honour, and in the SERVICE of his COUNTRY. The necessary aids I consider such, as turning to the RIGHT, to the LEFT, &c. The latter, persons of moderate capacity easily attain; but my great experience in the Equestrian Art, thoroughly convinces me, the complete knowledge of the *appui* can only be acquired with considerable difficulty: and furthermore, I am of opinion, that this highly necessary part of EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION can only be attained in the *Manage*, by great practice, under judicious, experienced, and able professors,

or

or flying, without which, no essential services can be expected from him: but to accomplish these points the horseman must have a perfect pliability and command of his own body, otherwise he will never be able to adjust and regulate the different paces which are required of him.

Persist in the before-mentioned exercises until he is thoroughly fearless of all objects that before used to be his terror; for the teaching him to be familiar with drums, trumpets, flags fire-arms, &c. prevents his startling at any unusual noise, or uncommon objects on the road.—The more frequently he is thus exercised, the sooner will he attain perfection in his duty.

Most men, however, are liable to be so much mistaken in the proper method of correcting a horse, which startles at any object on the road, that they spur and whip the intimidated animal up to whatever has thus frightened him—By this means, they not only risk spoiling, or breaking the spirit of the horse, but they hazard their own safety.

It was by this improper and injudicious mode, that Mr. ASTLEY, surgeon, at Putney, lost his life. His horse startled at a broad-wheel waggon on the road; Mr. A. adopted the usual method of spurring his horse, until he made him approach the waggon; which he no sooner did, than the wind, gathering under the tilt, raised it in such a manner, that it alarmed the horse so much, as to cause him to throw his rider instantly under the wheels, which passed over and killed him on the spot. The danger of this method is sufficiently evinced by this, and a thousand similar examples. By obliging the horse in this hasty manner to approach what terrifies him, you increase his fears in the proportion of his proximity to the object; and, when he is driven close to it,

if

if he have any spirit, you will find that he will so suddenly fly from it, as to render it almost impossible for the best of horsemen to keep their seats.

What renders it so difficult is, that the rider having accomplished his desire of forcing his horse close to the object, thinks himself no longer in danger; and thus is so easy and careless in his seat, that when the horse startles in this unexpected manner, it is more surprising that he should not be thrown, than that he should

Having shewn the danger of this imprudent method, it is proper I should give such directions as may cure the horse of this vice, without endangering the life or limbs of the rider. When he startles at any object, instead of increasing his fear, by forcing him to what he is thus endeavouring to shun, or risking yourself being thrown over a bridge, under a carriage, into a pit, &c. you should chastise him at a PROPER DISTANCE FROM THE SAID OBJECT, until his fear so much abates, that you perceive him rather inclined to approach of himself. Then you may direct him gently to it; and, as he goes nearer and nearer, encourage his confidence with the most gentle words and endearing caresses. In this manner, you will find, when he has gone entirely up to the object, his spirits will be so calmed, that you will not be in the least danger of flying from it, in a more violent and dangerous manner than he did when it first caught his sight or hearing: but should this first trial prove unsuccessful, IT MUST BE REPEATED UNTIL YOU HAVE OBTAINED YOUR DESIRE. In this you must be sure to observe never to force him to the object until his fears have subsided, and that his confidence has returned.

To shew the value of having horses properly trained and disciplined, it may not be improper here

to

to observe that I have several times bought, at different repositories, horses for a very inconsiderable sum, in consequence of their not being completely corrected of those vices, which they derive from their natural shyness and untamed spirits: for, when they have been found to startle at any object they meet, and are undisciplined, little use, profit, or convenience will they afford to their owners, who are thus happy in availing themselves of the first opportunity of selling them for what they can possibly get offered.

Thus have I bought the best horses, and for a few guineas! The danger of riding horses of this description is so great, as to render them, indeed, scarcely worth keeping by any, except by the most experienced horseman. It is only by such that they can be governed or mounted with safety, and with any prospect of having them corrected of their vicious habits; and as there are very few riders who have any claim to the title of horsemen, the difficulty of rendering such horses useful is still greater, and consequently tends to reduce the price in proportion.

Horses of this denomination I have never bought, unless I discovered they had good form, great activity, and much spirit; for without these qualifications, all the discipline and instruction, the best master can give them, will prove of no possible avail.

CHAPTER II.

Astley's Precautions in purchasing a Horse.

APPROACH the stable very quietly, and by no means disturb the horse, that you may find out his imperfections; suffer no one to go near him until you have thoroughly observed his position while standing quietly in the stable: horses with tender feet, or otherwise lame, generally favour themselves in the part affected while in this state.

Being thoroughly satisfied with his appearance, order him out; but suffer no whip or spur to be applied to him, as correction, if he be a little lame or tender footed, will make him forget it for a moment. Let him be taken to a convenient place, between light and dark, that you may thoroughly examine his eyes; for all eyes in the sun appear much better than they really are, and it requires much skill to discover their degree of goodness.

Two things are to be particularly considered in the eye: first, the crystal; secondly, the bottom or ground of the eye.

Let your observations be rather oblique: if the eye appear good, not sunk in the head, and the sight

sight free from spots, they are favourable signs; for if you expect to be carried safe, the eyes as well as the legs should be strictly attended to.

His age is known by his teeth: horses for the road or field should not be under five years old; though, in fact, the country dealers, by cutting the gums, make them appear older than they really are; a practice which ought to be entirely abolished.

I have observed horses at eight and nine years old with a black speck in their teeth, much resembling the true mark, but then it was not hollow; for, at that age, the lower teeth are all even, when the upper are absolutely not so until the horse is twelve years old, (cribbiters excepted); at thirteen the horse's upper and lower teeth appear nearly all even: at fourteen the teeth overhang, and get long: if any gentleman should dispute the fact, let him carefully examine horses at various ages, and he will find the above to be indisputable assertions.

View his withers, back, and CROUP; observe that his fore legs be not inclined to bend forward, and that he have no scars on the knees, or six inches below or above; the hair on the above place should lie equally sleek as on any part of the body; if otherwise, you may expect he has tumbled down; then, at all events, reject him.

The next point that comes under consideration, is, the walk, the trot, and gallop, in perfect *cadence* (being natural paces). If any pavement is near, let him be mounted and ridden on it; even then suffer him not be spurred, whipped, nor otherwise ill-treated. Observe that the walk be bold, that he neither cut nor interfere before nor behind; scars on the inside of the legs, denote a horse not going well on them; but I must frankly confess, that the farrier is as often to blame as the horse.

His

His trot should be free, steady, and performed with great agility, two legs up in the air, and two down on the ground: if he appear sound in the trot, and please you in his different actions, order him to gallop.—Horses, galloping straight forward, may lead with the right or left leg before; but then the hind leg of the same side must immediately follow, otherwise they gallop disunited; a certain sign of not being properly instructed.—Horses, broken by able masters, commonly gallop with their right leg foremost, especially when turning a corner to the right hand; and if they turn to the left, will immediately change and take the left leg.

Being satisfied with the walk, trot, and gallop, and that the horse is sound and temperate in all his actions, as also thoroughly obedient to the bridle-hand, I pronounce him valuable; for I have found by experience, that a horse well broken makes a man a tolerable good horseman, and nothing, that I know of, contributes so much to the attaining this desirable end, as the prudent and steady action of the rider.

CHAPTER III.

Of the Bridle, Saddle and Stirrups.

WE come now properly to equip the horse; and, indeed, many gentlemen have various ways in doing this.—I recommend the snaffle for hunting; and, in bitting a horse, to give him such a bit as may readily gain his acquiescence in the actions you may require of him; and if your horse has been properly bitted, care should be taken that he is not spoiled by bad management.—Nothing should be more attended to than bitting a horse; every movement of the bridle with the bit-rein, should be light and easy: if the rider has not a tolerable command of the body, he should never attempt much with the bit-rein, as well as some knowledge of the *appui*. Changing bits makes a horse disobedient; and I have observed several accidents proceeding from a spirited horse not being properly curbed: the most quiet horse may bring his rider into great danger, should the curb hurt him; if, in fixing the curb, you turn the chain to the right, the links will unfold properly; put on the chain to

range

range rather loose, that the bit may have liberty to move in the horse's mouth; and before you attempt to ride your horse in a new bit, let it be put in his mouth three or four mornings, previous to your mounting him, and just let the bit-rein be brought up, that the horse may feel the effect of the curb.

The saddle should fit the horse with great ease, and be placed on his back in such a manner as not in the least to press on one part more than on another.*

The stirrups should be of an equal length; nothing is so bad as to see a gentleman ride with unequal stirrups, nor with such can a proper seat be obtained in time of danger. I recommend the stirrup-irons to be jagged, in the manner of a baker's rasp, which will greatly assist the rider in wet or frosty weather, as well in mounting as dismounting, in flying or standing leaps, and, in short, upon all occasions.

* Most sadlers, as I have already observed, consider nothing more than the appearance of a saddle: those which I use have little or no cantlet; such are best calculated to enable the indifferent rider to keep his body back, and maintain his seat with equal proportion of weight on each quarter of the horse.

CHAPTER. IV.

ASTLEY'S *Project of training Horses to Leap.*

IN order to exercise the horse in leaping with your weight, I would recommend you to use a bag, filled with sand, weighing from four to eight stone, increasing every morning half a stone, till it arrives at your own weight. Place this across his back, and fasten it; then begin to accustom him to leap about a foot high; continuing to increase the height of the leap in proportion to the additional weight on his back every morning, until he has learned to clear the height of five feet and a half, with such a weight as you may judge proper.—Observe to exercise him in this manner, until he can effect this leap with great ease and agility.

The horse being thoroughly enabled to leap the above-mentioned height by practising him at the bar, let him next be exercised to leap over a ditch; for I have seen many good hunters leap a bar or hedge, with great agility and readiness, that were shy, awkward, and embarrassed, when required to go over a ditch.

ditch. In order, therefore, to render BOTH easy and familiar to him, he should be exercised equally at the bar and ditch; observing to feed him with a little corn, &c. by way of reward, as recommended in the preceding discourse.

Your horse being properly trained to leap with an equivalent weight to your own, namely, the sand-bag of such, or more weight, you may then discontinue the bag and mount him yourself; for the sand-bag is only used as a substitute for the rider, in order to prevent accidents. Having mounted him, leap him over the bar, observing to begin with SMALL HEIGHTS, not only for your own security, but for your improvement. Having acquired a competent knowledge for taking a standing or flying leap over a bar, gate, or hedge, next exercise him over a ditch, as you did before with the sand-bag.

In this exercise, I have seen many an excellent horse spoiled, from the eager and imprudent manner of forcing him over heights he had refused. Should he decline to leap any desired height, do not chastise him, but accommodate the bar to his ability and inclination, by placing it lower.

Having leaped him over the height, adapted to his present temper, and giving him a little *corn in a sieve*, taking off the burthen, you may then, by raising the bar from hole to hole, insensibly train him to leap the height, which he before refused, and you desired. By this means, you preserve the temper of the horse —reward his exercise; such an indulgence may prevent, very frequently, his fore or hind quarters from being hurt, by striking against the bar, in consequence of his reluctance to take a leap, to which he has not been patiently and gradually trained.

CHAPTER. V.

NATURAL PACES. *The Walk, the Trot, and the Gallop.*

SUPPOSE yourself mounted, with your bridle-reins adjusted in either one or both hands; the position of your switch or whip corresponding; then put your horse into a walk; in directing him, you should be careful to avoid using the spur. The greatest judgement is necessary for inducing him to execute his natural paces well, for I consider a good walk, as the foundation of his other paces. The action of the walk is four distinct beats, in perfect running *cadence;* namely—the off fore-foot leading first, marks one; the near hind-foot, two; the near fore-foot, three; and the off hind foot, four; encouraging the horse to a bold action by the excellence of the bridle-hand, and its corresponding *appui.*—Both united to what is termed a good bridle-hand, cannot but assist in bringing up his hind, in strict unison with his fore quarters. Here I must remark, and endeavour to impress on the reader's mind my former observation, *viz*, the necessity of possessing a good musical capacity, without which, the walk may be corrupted, and the

the horse's action rendered disagreeable to the eye, as well as uneasy to the horseman. Pliability in the rider is also requisite as well as in the horse; perfect and absolute reciprocity is here necessary.

Of the Trot.

The excellence of this action depends much on the degree of perfection in the walk; for I have found that when a horse walks well, with shoulders pliant, lofty head, &c. he is seldom deficient in any of his other natural paces.

The trot is two legs in the air, and two on the ground, at one and the same time, in the form of a St. Andrew's cross, viz. The off fore-foot, and the near hind-foot—and the near fore-foot and the off hind-foot—so that the action of the trot is 2-2 equal, instead of 1, 2, 3, 4, as in the walk; both actions must be in perfect *cadence*, without which, the horse cannot arrive at the degree of excellence or perfection necessary.

The Gallop.

The gallop I consider under three distinct heads, namely—That of the Racer, on the course of Newmarket; the Hunter, under moderate animation on the plain; and the lady's or pleasure horse, on the road. Each of these actions has its peculiar excellence; but the last I conceive to be the most difficult to accomplish, it requiring the skill of an able professor to foreshorten and throw the horse on his haunches, sufficiently to complete this action. Lastly, due care must be taken, that the horse does not gallop disunited: be it here understood that, in galloping straight forward, the horse may lead with which fore leg he pleases; but with whatever fore-leg he leads,

the hind leg of the same side must follow, otherwise, I term it, false action, or being disunited; but in dashing forward, and turning to right or left, it is necessary that the fore-foot, nearest the centre, should take the lead; if otherwise, you may bring your horse to the ground.

I cannot conclude without noticing the AMBLE, which may be considered as a natural pace of the horse; because, most foals following their dams amble more or less to keep up with them: the difference between the walk and the amble, is, that two legs of a side are raised in the latter at one and the same instant, and so on *vice versa*.

But to return to the bridle hand, and the advantages to be derived from a due knowledge of it.

To arrive at the thorough knowledge of the bridle-hand must be a work of time; and I am strictly of opinion that no one can ever attain the appellation of a good bridle-hand, without much practice, pliability, and great command of body on horseback. If I be allowed the parity, I am sure there are as many *notes* appertaining to the bridle-hand, as to the *gamut* for any instrument.

By the knowledge of the bridle-hand, you obtain dominion over, and out-manœuvre every cunning of the horse; from the bridle-hand you refresh the horse's mouth; in short, every thing that is desirable is acquired by it.—Thus regulating each action of the horse to what best suits your seat; for, in fact, it may be said, that the safety of the horseman depends upon a good bridle-hand; supposing that he has a sufficient knowledge of the force and utility of the snaffle, or bit, as well as holding the bridle-reins; which all the theory of the most able professors, cannot complete you in, and can never be acquired without much practice and experience.

My

My method is to ride with a snaffle and running rein-bridle; indeed I use it for my *chaise and coach horses*, having some aversion to the long branch-bit.

This Species of bridle greatly assists me in raising the horse's head, when riding, driving, and more particularly in the *manege*. There is positively no doing without it; but the use of this kind of bridle I consider as similar to poison in the hands of an ignorant physician, for without a proper knowledge of its tendencies, nothing but destruction will ensue!

Moreover, a good bridle-hand makes a steady horse, chiefly, if the just *appui* be observed.—Horses receive some punishment from the mouth-piece of the bridle, where the *appui* is corrupted; or, if I may be allowed the expression, disorganized.—The former, in every sense of the word, operates as a kind of insensible communication between the hand and the mouth, directing the horse in his pure *cadence*; when the latter may produce untimely punishment, and such punishment, nothing but imperfect or corrupted *cadence*, and a total destruction of the horse's action.

The reader will find, under Chap. I. other remarks on this head, and to which the young practitioner is most respecfully recommended, by the Author, to pay particular attention, he having, in the course of long practice, been much benefited by the prescribed method.

CHAPTER. VI.

Astley's project for instructing Horses to go calmly in Harness.

I HAVE found by experience that most horses submit to draw, when they have refused to carry quietly; or, in other words, have been spoiled by unskilful jockies. With regard to teaching horses to draw, I would not recommend them to be put into harness before their shoulders are suppled, and they have learned to trot the circle with great address and agility.

After the horse has been thus properly worked, accustomed to back, and will suffer a bit to be put in his mouth, let him be harnessed and worked in hand. In teaching him to draw, you should first fix one man to the traces; when he has learned to draw *him* quietly, fix another, and thus continue increasing the number of men.

By this gradual method you will find he is insensibly taught to draw, when, perhaps, had you fixed him at first to the carriage, he would have been so frightened and prejudiced, that you would never have been able to have taught him afterwards. Observe that

that the traces be of sufficient length, so as to suffer the man or men he draws to be out of his reach of kicking; if he backs, let the man or men fixed to the traces abstain from pulling against him; but if he draws willingly, be sure not to continue his exercise so as to fatigue or prejudice him against the lesson he is learning; rather let him rest very frequently, and in those intervals use every means of caresses, feeding him with a little corn, in fine, holding out to him every possible encouragement, such as I have so much recommended in the former lessons:—for he deserves your kindness, when he shews you the least disposition to obey, and you have obtained a great deal of him when you find he is willing to draw even the weight of a single man.—This mode is particularly to be adopted in preference to harnessing the horse at first to the carriage; for in this latter injurious, injudicious, and dangerous method, the horse, in his fright, and reluctance to draw, frequently ruins himself intirely.

Such an accident as this I witnessed near Westminster-bridge:—some butchers had hired a cart, with an intention of trying a horse which one of them had bought; the consequence was, that the horse, proving restive, set off in full speed with the cart and three men in it, bore every thing down in his way, broke one of the party's leg, dislocated the shoulder of another, and totally ruined himself.

This lesson is particularly directed to all who delight in draught horses; for nothing can be more useful to the community in general, than to know how to teach them with safety to draw any carriage.

In exercising the horse, it must be observed that you make him form a path representing the figure of eight, which being two circles joined, you may then exercise him round each separately, first to the right, then

then to the left, alternately;—he consequently will be suppled each way: but when you put him to the carriage, avoid quarrelling with him for the three first days, otherwise you may, perhaps, render him as refractory as he was when you first began to teach him to draw. Should he then refuse, instead of correcting, take him from the carriage and repeat his exercise with men in the traces, as you did at first, and continue so until you make him obedient to your purpose.

Before I conclude this chapter, I would particularly advise that the horse be not oppressed with the pinching of the bit, the tightness of the harness, nor the too great weight of the carriage; for all these circumstances irritate his temper and render him unwilling to perform what you expect from him. If you have two horses to your carriage, be sure to choose them of equal strength and spirit, otherwise the more vigorous one will be liable to be spoiled, from his having the greater share of the labour in drawing, arising from his superiority of spirit:—and in your journies, particularly remember to go stages of no more than eight miles, at which feed them with a little hay and corn at a time; be sure, likewise, to give them a little water, not exceeding two quarts, at every stage. Another great article in travelling to be observed, is, to have the wheels of your carriage greased, whilst you are on the road, at least once a-day; for I deem greasing the wheels to be actually increasing the strength of your horses, at least, if it be not literally so, it conduces to that effect.

And, finally, observe, when you arrive at the inn where you mean to lie, to have their feet picked, oiled, and stuffed; and, before you leave it in the morning, let them have no hay in their racks for at least two hours previous to your departure, and instead of it give them a feed of corn.

Observe

Observe, when you set off, not to begin your stage so fast, as to fatigue your horses before they have scarcely warmed themselves; and when you are approaching the end of your stage, not to heat them in such a manner as to endanger their taking cold; to which accident the best horses are liable, from being driven in a great perspiration into the stables, and there left to stand on the cold stones. If accident or circumstances should oblige you to heat them too much, when they arrive, be careful to have some litter immediately placed under their feet, and to have them rubbed as dry as they possibly can be by the hostlers. As soon as they arrive, give them a pint of water, which you will find will refresh them, and serve as a stimulus to the food you intend for them. The stables should neither be too close, nor too much exposed to the cold, neither should they be too public; for if they are, the noise your horses will hear must undoubtedly prevent them from going to rest, which is the most necessary species of refreshment that animal requires, to enable him to bear the fatigues of the road. —Observe, finally, that the halters have logs, and be of sufficient length to admit your horses to lie down without any restraint; for want of this requisite, trifling as it may appear, I have known horses prevented from taking any rest, and even lying down with ease the whole night.

CHAPTER. VII.

Feeding, Watering, Dressing, and Managing Horses, either at Rest or on a Journey.

PREVENTING diseases in horses is as desirable as the curing them; many disorders with which they are afflicted being caused by improper treatment. With regard to the feeding, and the managing them in every other respect, I would first be cautious to prevent evils, before I say any thing relative to the cure; for I am certain most of the diseases, incident to horses, are to be avoided by proper attention and management; those, which are not to be prevented, I am equally certain, may be effectually cured without sending for a farrier to bleed or rowel them; or to the chymist to drench, purge, or sweeten them.

With respect to the prevention of disorders, be sure your horses are first provided with good hay, oats, and straw; in feeding them, be careful not to give them too much hay, which occasions horses more disorders than can be imagined:—too much hay, or of a bad quality, occasions flatulences, difficulty in breathing, indigestions, slowness of circulation of blood, and foul humours, which frequently settle

settle on their lungs, and cause that disorder, to which horses are so liable, namely, greasy heals. All their maladies are chiefly caused by giving them more hay, than, perhaps their age or their labour requires.

A horse, not more than seven years old, requires not so much nourishment as one of ten, unless he have more labour to undergo: if he have, then his food should be, in the same degree, increased.—A young riding horse, not exceeding seven years old, should not have more than eighteen pounds weight of hay per day, the same quantity of wheat-straw, and two feeds of corn. From that age to twelve years, he may have as much, as twenty pounds weight and a preparer and straw; but in no instance whatever should any horse have more than twenty-four pounds weight per day. I have been convinced of the bad effects of giving horses more than in this specified proportion. Greasy heels may only be attributed to the great quantity of bad hay they eat, unqualified with a proper quantity of corn; had they more corn, the bad effects of eating so much hay, would be, in some degree, corrected; but, as they are chiefly fed on hay of a bad quality, they are always afflicted with the above disease.—A little good wheat-straw, laid in the manger, with the hay, whether good or bad, is very wholesome.

In the above directions, respecting the quantity to be given to riding horses, I forgot to mention that draught horses should have in the proportion of four pounds weight more per day; observe also, never to water your horses until they are entirely cold; and if you are travelling, be careful to have their feet examined before you leave the inn, at every stage; by this means, you will see if any stones or gravel are in their hoofs, or between the shoes and the hoof; you will likewise know if their shoes be bad, or require removing;

moving; should they want shoeing, or to have their shoes removed, let it be done two days at least before you begin your journey, in order to afford time sufficient for them to settle and conform to the feet. Commence your journey, if possible, with short stages; never check or prevent your horse from staling, for this causes many accidents, such as the stone, the gravel, the dropsy, and the strangury.—The first pure and wholesome water you pass, on the road, after seven in the morning, in summer, and nine in the winter, let them drink a little; but the faster you intend to travel, the less water you need give them; if you be not in particular speed, ride or drive your horses for six minutes before you arrive at your inn, rather leisurely: this will enable them to recover their wind, and when unbridled, they will, with greater avidity and appetite, take whatever feeding you think proper to give them, provided it be such, and in the quantities, I have before recommended; should your business require you to travel with more haste, order them, if it be warm weather, to be walked about the stable-yard, or inn-door, in a man's hand; by this method they will cool by degrees, and, consequently, not be so liable, as they otherwise would be, to chill in the stable; but should the weather happen to be cold, let them be covered with proper clothing, and then order the groom or hostler to walk them in some ride or place, that is covered and sheltered from the wind and weather; should there be no such covered place, let them be taken into the stable, and their whole body rubbed down with fresh straw, until perfectly dry and clean.—These are all the rules, that I think requisite to give, respecting the management of your horses, before you feed them.

With regard to their food, and farther care in the stable,

stable, it may be proper to observe, that should your horses be dry, in consequence of your not having given them any water on the road, let the oats you order them be washed in good mild ale.—Dust, sand, and quick respiration, sometimes dry the mouth and tongue of a horse, so as intirely to destroy his appetite; to restore this, give him some bran moistened with water, which will likewise greatly cool and refresh him; should you have ridden him excessively hard, order him to be unsaddled immediately, have his sweat scraped off, and desire the hostler to take a little vinegar in his mouth, and spirt it into that of the horse; then let his head, his chest, between his fore legs, his belly, between his hind legs, and, indeed, all his body be rubbed with clean straw, until he be as dry as he possibly can be made; suffer him not to drink until he is entirely cool, and has eaten a little hay or a few oats; for many horses, by being permitted to drink too soon after they are taken into the stable, have been ruined.—This careless and precipitate method is the cause frequently of staggers and of surfeit in horses;—to dry the pannel of the saddle, from the moisture it imbibed from the perspiration of the horse, order it to be placed in the sun or before a fire.

Should you have come a long journey in the day, examine at night your horse's back, in order to see if it be galled, pinched, or swelled from the too great pressure of the saddle.—You may, perhaps, not discover it immediately on your arrival at the inn, as the tumour or swelling frequently does not form itself until some time after the saddle is taken off; in this case, I would advise your examining the back again after supper, when, if it be wrung, you will certainly perceive it, and the place.—Whenever you find such an accident, you can apply nothing better

to cleanse and heal it than good brandy, mixed with the white of an egg; and should the horse gall between either its fore or hind legs, use the same remedy; but if you be careful to have the hostler rub the horse well between the legs, he will seldom gall in those parts.

Having given these directions for feeding and managing horses, at night, on a journey, I think it proper here to conclude with repeating, what is indispensibly necessary, namely—to have your horse's feet well washed, after which to be examined, in order to have all the sand and gravel, lodged between the soles of their feet, picked out, and their shoes, should it prove necessary, well put on.

Let their feet be stuffed with cow-dung, which will greatly cool, ease, and refresh them, from the weariness of the past day's journey; and consequently prepare them better to sustain the fatigue of the succeeding day.—The reader will find more on this head in the following chapter.

CHAPTER VIII.

Dialogue between Mr. Astley and a Traveller, on the indisposition of his Horse.

TRAVELLER. IT gives me great pleasure, Mr. Astley, to have had an opportunity of dining with you this day, and I shall consider myself highly favoured, if you will afford me half an hour's conversation on the indisposition of my horse, which has given me much trouble and concern.

MR. ASTLEY. Most willingly, Sir; it always affords me the greatest pleasure to administer every assistance in my power to the brute creation, and especially to so valuable a part of it.—You will therefore, please to inform me, what you have observed with regard to your horse's indisposition.

TRAVELLER. When I left London, a fortnight since, my horse, apparently, was in good health; I have travelled about forty miles a day, using the precaution of stopping every ten miles to give him a little water and hay, prior to my offering him corn: both of which (for I closely examined them) have been of the best quality, neither have I ridden him at the rate of more than five miles and a half an hour.

Mr. ASTLEY. I discover, Sir, that you know the necessary point for preserving the horse in health on a journey; namely, strictly attending to his being fed with the very best hay, and also the best corn; which certainly is one of our first duties.

Pray, Sir, how did you discover that your horse was indisposed?

TRAVELLER. From his refusing, in part, his allowance of corn and hay; in fact, his loss of appetite daily encreased.

Mr. ASTLEY. How did you proceed, thus circumstanced?

TRAVELLER. I sent for a farrier, in order to deliberate what was best to be done; he advised the taking a little blood from him, but I fear he took too much.

Mr. ASTLEY. If the horse had any signs of fever, or his pulse was very high, I think he was justified.

TRAVELLER. I believe he had no fever.

Mr. ASTLEY. In that case he did wrong; for, as the stomach is influenced by health and disease, and as that alone was affected, I could have wished a stomachic had been applied, instead of the bleeding.

TRAVELLER. Pray, Sir, what is best under the present circumstances?

Mr. ASTLEY. There are many; but first, I would advise you to find out a substitute for the hay, and another for the corn; in short, a proper regimen of diet, which may afford some relief, and, in time, effect a total cure.—Of such substitutes, being timely administered, I have many times experienced the efficacy; and furthermore, I know they at least enabled the horse daily to travel short journeys, when he had no other weight except that of the rider.

TRAVELLER. Sir, I admire your ideas; pray lose no

no time, but inform me what are these substitutes; and are they really conducive to the preservation of horses in health on a journey?

Mr. ASTLEY. Unquestionably so, Sir; for in the thousands of miles that I have travelled, and the number of years experience which I have had, such have been their use to me, more particularly in hot weather, that, in some cases, similar to the disease under which your horse labours, I could never have got to the end of my journey without them; and I have found that the horses of five years old, unaccustomed to travel, have been more subject to such disease than horses much older.

TRAVELLER. From your observations I may infer, as my horse is only rising four years old, that that circumstance might, in part, be the cause of his being not altogether equal to the journey, and, of course, though not ridden over hard, it might affect his appetite; but pray, Sir, proceed with your substitutes.

Mr. ASTLEY. Half a pound of honey, nightly, dissolved in a quart of boiling water, and immediately thrown over half a peck of malt, (in a pail) incorporated well together, and given to the horse, a handful at a time, a little warm, I have found to be an excellent substitute for oats, for the night and morning feeding, or an increase of the quantity, according to art.—Honey I have found by experience to be excellent for horses on a journey; its balsamic, diuretic, and diaphoretic qualities, &c. I have no occasion to speak of, being sufficiently known. I have also given, with great success, a quarter of an ounce of sulphur, incorporated with the malt-mash for a week together; and where honey could not be obtained, I have made use of treacle.—As a substitute for hay in diseases of horses, or to keep them in health, sliced

carrots, parsnips, apples, and pears, I have found to be excellent in the winter months; and a little grass, with the malt-mash, highly necessary in the summer months, in addition to the carrots, &c.

TRAVELLER. I most heartily thank you for your hints, and I hope I shall profit by your advice; I most certainly will adopt your prescription; but pray, Sir, have you noticed, during your long experience, what have been the chief causes of the loss of appetite?

Mr. ASTLEY. Great fatigue, bad food, travelling in cold and rain; carrying greater weight than the horse's strength is equal to; pushing him smart up hills while he had water in his stomach, and keeping him long on the road, when the loss of appetite first appeared; such circumstances certainly tend to bring on and to encrease this disease, more particularly with young and spirited horses; I may add, form being too heavily shod, or having too much iron put in the shoes, which fatigues a horse beyond all calculation, such I mean, as are for a considerable time on the road—a precaution to the contrary must tend to prevent the complaint.

TRAVELLER. I have ever had my eye on this point, considering that an ounce of iron, placed at the extremity of a horse's foot, may be considered as equal to three pounds on his back.

Mr. ASTLEY. Sir, you are before-hand with me—you have antcipated my remark, and it is certainly well founded.

TRAVELLER. Now, Sir, as we have got to the horse's feet, will you have the goodness to inform me of the best mode of preserving them on a journey?

Mr. ASTLEY. My practice has been to take two pennyworth of each of the following: linseed oil

oil and turpentine oil, shook well in a bottle, and when the horse's hoof is dry, I cause it to be rubbed well round the coronet, as also the whole hoof, sole, &c. this to be applied every second night, in hot weather, and every third night when the weather is damp or cold; I have found it to be excellent, easily to be obtained, and every way equal to the purpose.

In the intervening nights, I make use of a little warm hog's lard, and stuff the feet up with a little tow; first dipping it in the hog's lard, and placing very little sticks, crossways, under the shoe, in order to keep the tow in its place.

CHAPTER IX.

The many Diseases to which Horses are liable, their Regimen, and Method of Cure.

I DO not mean here to give a long and elaborate list of all the disorders with which horses are afflicted, but only such as are the most frequent and dangerous, with particular directions to be observed in the management and regimen, as well as the best and most ready physical means of preventing and curing them.—So that whatever rules I take the liberty of suggesting, will not be dictated by dogmatical theory, but by the unerring proofs of my own long experience.

Young horses, of spirit and vigour, I have always found the most liable to disorders, and those too of the most dangerous nature—their animation and natural heat of blood, cause them frequently to exhaust even their great portion of strength, in such a manner as to leave them, when under unskilful management, a prey to langour and to loss of appetite.—

Their

Their too violent exertions often inflame their blood to such a degree, as to bring on them the most alarming fevers.—Other disorders to which they are liable, from great and extraordinary efforts to serve you, are colds, obstructed circulation of the blood, and surfeit.—But all these, as I have hinted, may be caused by careless and ignorant treatment.

Over-working horses is not only the most cruel, but most impolitic conduct you can observe in the management of them.—Many, to gratify a few minutes vanity, in shewing that their horses are better than any they pass or travel in company with, will ride them in such a mad, inhuman, and imprudent manner, as entirely to ruin the best of creatures.—Others will, to arrive, perhaps, an hour sooner at the end of their journey, ride or drive their horses as fast up hill and down dale as possible. Hence originate all those evils attendant on sprains, on dislocations, and consumptions: I cannot, therefore, too much recommend the greatest care and moderation in riding or driving them; for the disorder first occasioned by this indiscreet management, if not cured immediately, brings upon them a host of other disorders, which, combined, baffle all the united powers of skill and medicine.

Loss of Appetite.

As the stomach is the principal seat of this disease, the greatest attention ought to be paid to it.

Young horses are most subject to this disorder, from being liable to contract colds, coughs, fevers, &c. in consequence of being over-worked. When a horse is afflicted with this disease, and it should proceed from the above cause, and be attended with a little fever, take away from him *immediately* one

pint

pint of blood, and one pint a day for four mornings after; but if the fever increase, go on with one pint a day for seven mornings; give him the fever powders *(see Index, at word Fever)* whenever the fever appears, but not otherwise—then take half a pound of honey and dissolve it in a quart of boiling water; pour this to half a peck of malt or bran, and after you have blended it well, give the horse three or four handfuls every hour; continue this regimen for some days, at the same time let him be perfectly at rest; and, if it be in the summer season, cut a little grass for him, which, as it is his natural food, will greatly refresh and nourish him—but should he refuse to eat the above, give him some water-gruel, sweetened with honey, to the quantity of three pints a day, in equal proportions.—You may add to the gruel, a quarter of a pint of distilled anniseed water, which may be had at any inn or public-house on the road. But should he not take cordially any of the above preparations, turn him immediately from the rack, and tie to his bit a quarter of an ounce of asafœtida, put in a rag: let him champ on this for a few hours, which will greatly tend to recover his spirits and restore his appetite.

Should he have a purging at the same time, which frequently happens, give him a pound of treacle, dissolved in a quart of water, by the assistance of a horn or bottle.—You will find this an excellent remedy to cleanse the bowels of all those corrosive particles which lie in his stomach, proceeding from unwholesome seeds and weeds that often are found in hay, and are the cause of his being thus purged. If he have this additional disease, you will find him waste in strength, spirits, and flesh, so fast as to render him irrecoverable, if you lose a moment in applying the remedy I have here advised.

Should

Should his loss of appetite proceed from a violent cough and very high fever,* let two quarts of blood be immediately taken from him, and give him small doses of fever-powders, frequently repeated, with walking exercise, if possible. Observe, at the same time, to keep him clothed with several rugs, and, instead of placing them over his back, as the seat of his disorder lies in his bowels, let them be placed so as to cover his belly entirely, and only meet on the back. Put a cloth over them and the body roller, which bind together with the surcingle.

Honey is excellent for horses afflicted with great difficulty of breathing, violent coughs, colds, and obstructions; indeed I have never found any thing more effectual: nothing is more easy in its operation.

When the disorder is at its crisis, I would advise the following drink:

Take one quart of thin water-gruel, sweetened with honey; of linseed, anniseed, and carraway seeds, each half an ounce; two cloves of garlick; the latter, beaten in a mortar, are to be put in the

* A fever is known by every groom or farrier, who has the least knowledge of what is the regular circulation of a horse's blood; for by the slowness or quickness of the pulse the state of the animal is to be ascertained. A violent quick pulse will always denote either the symptom or the paroxysm of a most raging fever. This is likewise to be known by other signs, such as extreme languor of spirits, chillness in the extremities of the body and limbs, intense heat in the mouth, torpor of the faculties, drowsiness of the senses, and a total inaction in the whole frame and animal system. When these symptoms appear, the horse should be immediately bled, as directed; if not, the animal is in danger of dying in the course of a few days: for this is generally his fate in a violent fever. Many hundreds of horses have I known to be thus rapidly carried out of existence, for want of the immediate care which I have recommended—but when they have been bled, as I have prescribed, and had the fever powders *(see Index, word Fevers)* I have known as many to be saved.

gruel;

gruel; give of this preparation, night and morning, one quart each time. Repeat this medicine until the cold is entirely cured, and the appetite of the horse restored.

During this, let him have no water but what is rendered luke-warm, by the addition of boiling water. Use moderate exercise, which will tend to cause the medicine to be more effectual in its operation.—By observing this, with proper care and perseverance, you will find your horse very soon recover from his indisposition; but you must be careful, whilst you are administering the above drink, to have him rubbed down with straw, and clothed carefully, agreeably to the urgency of the season.

To aid the above remedies in their operations, if the horse be of a costive habit of body, administer the following clyster:

Take five pints of whey, three ounces of senna, half a pound of common sugar, half a pint of sweet oil, and a handful of salt; boil these ingredients all together, and give a sufficient quantity as a clyster, tolerably warm, to the horse.—Repeat this for three days successively; suffer him to eat bran-mashes, give him a good bed of straw to indulge his inclination for lying down; and if his stable be paved with stones or bricks, to prevent the cold from chilling his bowels, cover his belly and loins with proper clothing, as a defence against this danger.

Diseases of the Eyes.

If any accident happen to the eye or eyes of a horse, from a blow or contusion, he should be bled plentifully, and kept upon moderate diet.—Should there appear a whitish film over the ball or sight, blow into it, with a quill, a small quantity of lapis calaminaris in powder, night and morning: but should neither bleeding nor this outward application prove

prove effectual, take a quarter of a drachm of white vitriol, and mix it with a drachm of lapis calaminaris; reduce these into a powder, and blow a very small quantity of it on the film every morning, which, in about five or six days, will entirely remove it.

Should the distemper proceed from a cold, or a natural defect in the eye, caused by hard riding, gross feeding, or want of exercise, and it should appear swelled, closed, and streaked with blood, bleed very frequently, which will remove the inflammation, and, without any other assistance, bring about an entire cure.

If the horse's eye be naturally defective, and the sight or crystal have spots in it, you may deem it incurable; but there are some horses which have lost their sight, and yet preserve their appearance in so perfect a manner, as to render it almost impossible for the greatest skill and experience to discover the blemish;—no wonder, therefore, that it should be found so difficult to ascertain the goodness or badness of a horse's eyes in general!

To prevent, as much as possible, this accident of bad eyes happening to horses, I would advise them not to be fed above the due proportion to their work. Corn, frequently given in large quantities, is the cause of horses losing their sight; as a preservative they should be bled one quart, at least, once a month; unless their exercises be sufficient for the evacuation of those humours by perspiration. I have known none subject to this evil that have been fed with a proper quantity of straw: such are the virtues of straw mixed with the horse's food, that it not only cleanses but invigorates the body;—by occasional straw-diet horses are adapted for war; by hay and corn, given in greater proportions than is necessary, they are only fit for their own dunghills!

Cholic

Cholic and Gripes.

SYMPTOMS.

A horse afflicted with this disorder is known by his frequently lying down, and rolling incessantly, from the acuteness and violence of the pain he suffers; he breathes short, which is perceived by the great heaving of his flank.—Cart and coach-horses are mostly subject to these disorders, from their being more exposed to stand in the weather, by which they are often seized with the most dangerous coughs and colds, and these are generally attended with the bowels being more or less affected.

THE CURE.

With regard to the method of curing either the cholic or gripes generally adopted, I cannot, from what I have practised and experienced, give it my recommendation. But clysters may be given with safety and efficiency. Bleeding and purging (the common method) are sure to debilitate the horse, without affording him any relief; for the diforder of the bowels, not arising from any distemper the blood has contracted, it is contrary to reason to suppose any means used for its purification can avail in removing what has a different cause, and a different seat in the body.—So excellent are clysters in all complaints arising from indigestion or indisposition of the viscera, that almost in every internal malady of this nature they will be found, if given at proper intervals, most salutary.

Many

Many persons have resorted, for a cure of these disorders, to riding or driving their horses in a violent manner; but the consideration of a moment would inform them that such a mode must agitate, and therefore inflame their bowels, which are but too much so already. Others will rub the belly of a horse with a stick, which is equally pernicious and ineffectual as riding them violently;—by this means the bowels are frequently bruised instead of being relieved; it is true that gentle friction will give the animal temporary relief, that is, if you have his belly rubbed gently with straw, you will find it afford him a little ease; but then this is not a radical cure, which nothing will so soon effect as clysters, given opportunely and repeatedly. It is necessary here to observe, that, from the horizontal position of the horse, these complaints have not those means of natural relief which they have in man, arising from his erect position; consequently these diseases are, in general, more severe and difficult to cure in horses than in human beings; so that greater care, patience, and tenderness are requisite towards them for their recovery from these terrible disorders.

REMEDY.

Take a quarter of a pint of thin water-gruel, sweetened with honey, into which put a quarter of a pint of anniseed, which you may get at any inn or public house, and add five or six cloves of pepper; give half a pint of this preparation, milk-warm; every three hours to the horse, until you perceive the disease is somewhat abated; give him, likewise, bran-mashes tolerably warm, as recommended in some of the disorders before mentioned. Let him then have, as soon as possible, the following

CLYS-

CLYSTER.

Take two quarts of water in which tripe has been boiled;—four ounces of olive oil and fresh butter; a handful of camomile flowers; half an ounce of senna; two ounces of common sugar or honey; boil all these together, and then strain the composition through a fine sieve, or coarse cloth, and give from half to three quarters of a pint tolerably warm. Repeat this clyster every three hours, until you find the horse relieved from his pain.—Let him be kept, during this indisposition, in a large stable, well littered with clean straw; be sure to keep him warm, and take off his halter, in order to let him range at full liberty.

Giddiness.

Sometimes a horse will be seized with such a giddiness as to fall down the moment he comes out of the stable into the air. This is chiefly caused by a plethoric habit; grossness of the blood and humours, occasioned by over-feeding, want of proper exercise, and being confined too long in a close stable.—The spirits and circulation being thus rendered torpid and inactive, when they are roused by the action of fresh air, the brain is not able to endure the impetuosity which causes that swimming in the head, you will always find attended with a failure of the limbs;—as children when playing will frequently turn round so many times as to cause them to be incapable of preserving themselves from falling, unless they lean or support themselves by a chair, table, or any other thing which presents itself for their assistance; so are the effects of this giddiness shewn when a horse is seized with it.

This

This disorder is rather to be prevented than cured, by giving the horse moderate food, gentle exercise, and at intervals a clyster.

Strains, Wrenches, and Windgalls, from the Knee to the Hoof, occasioned by hard Riding, &c.

CURE.

The following simple and cheap embrocation will be found serviceable in curing these casualties.

Take of oil of turpentine, double-distilled vinegar, and spirits of wine, each a gill; but observe to mix first with the turpentine, alone, the whites of two eggs, in order the better to dissolve them; blend the whole together, and rub the part affected with it once every twenty-four hours for one week only, using a flannel wrapper to keep it warm; so efficacious is this medicine, that there is scarcely a strain or bruise but it will cure, if the bone be not injured; but should the bone be hurt, it is necessary then to foment the part with such common herbs as are used on such occasions: this must be done before you embrocate the part.—The best manner is to take a piece of double canvass, using a stick to each end; then steep a piece of flannel in the fomentation—and having wrung it rather dry, by the aid of the canvass and sticks, apply it as hot to the strain, &c. as the horse can possibly bear it, covering it with a horse-cloth.—Having repeated this application, let the part be rubbed entirely dry, and then bathed with the embrocation, as before directed. The fomentation may be used as frequently as you think proper, in all cases where the bone has received any injury; but where the sinews, muscles, and nerves are only strained, the embrocation may be found

sufficient:—care must be taken that you do not use it more than seven times successively, lest it should bring off some of the hair, to prevent which, apply the opodeldoc till the horse is cured. *(See Index, at word Opodeldoc.)*

Saddle-gall, and galling between the Fore-legs.

These complaints arise from not being circumspect in keeping the horse rubbed dry from sweat, and clean from dirt; which he contracts between the fore legs: these negligences cause the horse to chafe in those parts.

CURE.

Should the gall in either the back or the fore-legs be recent, nothing will be found better than the white of an egg, spread on whited-brown paper, and then laid on the sore, after it is well cleansed with brandy and water; but should you be on a journey, and not be able to apply this remedy, you must, in such case, bathe it with brandy and sweet-oil, till you arrive where the horse can have rest, then use the green ointment, made as I shall hereafter prescribe.

The Green Ointment.

Take of bees-wax one ounce; of mutton-suet two ounces; and of verdigrease, in powder, a quarter of an ounce; melt these together, and keep stirring them until they are cold; soften the whole with sweet oil.

The

The Author's Spermaceti Liniment for cracked Heels, &c.

Take of spermaceti, four ounces; of yellow wax, one ounce; of Venice turpentine, half an ounce; of verdigrease, in fine powder, a quarter of an ounce; of Euphorbium, in fine powder, half an ounce; linseed-oil, one ounce; (let the wax and spermaceti be melted); lastly, put in the linseed-oil, turpentine, verdigrease, and the Euphorbium; and, when the vessel is taken off the fire, stir it till the whole be cold.

This liniment, applied to cracked heels, sores, ulcers, or the like, will prove exceedingly serviceable.

Mange, Blood-running Itch, &c.

CURE.

The cure is as simple as the cause, and is effected by using the following recipe:

Put three ounces of crude mercury into two quarts of boiling water, in a stone bottle; then put a bladder on your hand, in order to defend it from the effect of the mercury: thus guarded, rub with a spunge, dipped in this mixture, all over those parts of the body of the horse on which the mange or itch appears.—Observe to let the mercury subside, before you attempt to use the water: two or three such rubbings generally effect a cure; but should they be found insufficient, a fourth may be resorted to with safety.—Give, at the same time, physic, as prescribed, internally, which will greatly accelerate the cure, by cleansing the body. You may likewise

wise give the horse a table-spoonful of brimstone, in a bran-mash, night and morning; but he must not be rubbed more than once a-day, and care must be had not to touch his eyes, his privities, or any other part too tender for the corrosive properties of this medicine.—To prevent his imbibing any of the mercury, by licking it off his body, let his head be tied to the manger, in such a manner as to prevent his having the power of making his mouth sore.—Having used the liquid three days with success, mix together six drachms of aloes, the same quantity of rhubarb, and half a drachm of ginger, all in powder, with syrup of buckthorn and liquorice-powder: form the whole into two balls, which constitute a dose.—Give him a second on the third morning after, and another on the sixth.—The first dose may not purge him, but the second and third most certainly will: let his water be luke-warm.

It would be proper, before you begin the application of rubbing him with the mercurial water, to cause him to perspire, by riding half a mile or a mile, on a pace sufficient to make him sweat.

The Second Remedy.

Take gunpowder, dissolved in vinegar, and rub the horse every morning all over his body, particularly his mane and tail; repeat the same for a week, giving him three times a day a warm malt-mash, with a small table spoonful of sulphur, well mixed with the mash, for seven days; at the end of which omit both, and wash off the powder with strong warm lees of tobacco-water, viz three pounds boiled in three gallons of water, till half the water is consumed; repeat this three days, after which, dress the horse as usual.—This remedy, for the mange in

dogs,

dogs, is the best I ever knew, provided plenty of boiled milk and bread be given to them during its application.

A Third Remedy.

(Generally made use of in France, and with great Success.)

Take equal proportions—say three half pints of turpentine, and three half pints of beer, put them into a bottle, and shake them well together; put two halters on the horse, and fasten him to a post or tree, with a quantity of dung spread round it, to prevent him from hurting himself. Shake the bottle, and with a man on each side, rub him well all over, and quick, particularly if the disease be very bad; but in three quarters of an hour the pain totally abates, and you may untie the horse with safety.—A malt-mash should be prepared for him, observing he is not to be curried or dressed for several days; after which, wash the horse all over with a strong decoction of tobacco-water, as in the SECOND REMEDY, three successive mornings, and he will be effectually cured. The French object to this remedy, for dogs, but apply it to their horned cattle.

N. B. During the cure, give the veterinary powders for the mange. *(See Index, at word Mange.)*

A Clyster for an acute Fever.

In a common emollient decoction, made with an ounce and a half of polychrest, mixed with herbs, to which you will add fennel-seed, pounded and boiled with them, and two handfuls of whole barley; after having strained the whole, you are to add, of

the oil of roses and of violets, each four ounces, and two ounces of benedicte, or three of cassia; thus prepared, the clyster will deterge the bowels while it comforts them; it would not be amiss to rub a horse that has a fever *against the grain*, for the purpose of more effectually opening the pores, and expelling the faliginous, smoky vapours, that exist under the skin, thus promoting perspiration; give also the fever-powders.

I have known this medicine prove of infinite utility to some horses; to others, it was not given with equal success: but when I find a horse continue to have a violent fever, from four to six days, without intermission, I give myself no farther trouble about him, judging him to be incurable; for I have not known any to recover, after having been so long afflicted with a fever, which ends, I repeat, by totally consuming the liver.

For a Horse greatly fatigued.

Bleed your horse in the neck, half a pint; the next day give him a clyster, with an ounce and a half of polychrest; and the day following give him half a pound of olive-oil, in a quart of milk, keeping him bridled two hours before and two hours after; in four days, (the day he took the oil included) give him the following

POTION.

Take, of electuary catholicon, one ounce; two drachms of treacle; of liquid conserve of red roses, one ounce; of cassia, one ounce; of liquorice juice, half an ounce; of senna in powder, half an ounce; two drachms of scammony, prepared with sulphur; of

of anniseed and cummin, each a drachm: mix the whole with a pint of white wine, and give it to the horse, who is to be kept bridled two hours before, and four after the remedy has been applied; if the animal has not been much purged, continue the clysters. Give him wet bran, good hay, and half a pound of honey, dissolved in hot water, after which mix it with the water he drinks night and morning, for his common beverage.—This done, allow him some rest, in order, to see the effects of the medicine; if you perceive no great amendment, you must resort to the golden sulphur of antimony, and to clysters once more; keeping the horse warm by an extra rug, in order to promote perspiration, giving him as much rest as possible; but, on no account, keep him in a small stable, air being necessary in this complaint.

Veterinary Powders for acute Fevers.

Take of antimony, finely powdered, and of shavings of hartshorn, half a pound; incorporate them well together; put them in a crucible, and place it in the centre of a strong fire (melting heat) until the whole is red hot—take it from the fire and let it cool—after which, break the crucible, and powder the medicine very fine. The dose for horses, in acute fevers, is twenty-five grains every six hours, given in half a pint of water-gruel; ten doses are sufficient within sixty hours, and if the symptoms should not abate, increase the dose to thirty grains every four hours; to the extent of ten doses; allow an interval of one day; and if the pulse be moderate, continue the powders, night and morning, twenty-five grains, until the horse is well.—Give him, for his common beverage, water, sweetened with ho-

ney, or treacle; should the horse purge very much, take ten grains from each dose of the powders.—If the fever is violent, bleed thrice, one pint, every six hours.—If it continues so for five days, give yourself no more trouble about him; in this time, his liver will be consumed, and he will be only fit for the dunghill.

Veterinary Powders, exceedingly serviceable in the Farcy, Strangles, Vies, Mange, and all Impurities.

Take Æthiop's mineral, made without fire, half a pound; of crude antimony, one pound, and mix them into a fine powder. Give the horse two drachms, night and morning, in half a pint of water-gruel, sweetened with honey, until the cure is completed. While the horse is taking the medicine, linseed mixed with the oats will be found exceedingly serviceable in most of those diseases.

Veterinary Egyptian Ointment.

Take of verdigrease four ounces; of double distilled vinegar, six ounces; of honey one pound; put them into a pipkin, that will stand the fire, and let them boil gently to a dusky colour; add, towards the latter end, roche-alum, and sal ammoniac, in fine powder, of each half an ounce, and make them into an ointment *according to art.*

Veterinary Tar Ointment.

Take ten ounces of tar, and four ounces of yellow wax, cut small; put them into a glazed pipkin, that will

will stand the fire, and let them incorporate over a gentle heat.

Swelled Legs, cracked Heels, or what is commonly called, the Grease.

These disorders may be attributed to violent and frequent exercise, improper management in grooming,* feeding, &c.

With regard to the mode of cure, I am of opinion, that all external remedies, poultices, ointments, washings, &c. are ineffectual; and that nothing will so speedily relieve this distemper and prevent its recurrence, as alteratives, and a proper regard to diet during their being administered, keeping the wound clean, &c. Poultices, though they may give the horse temporary ease, increase the disorder, by drawing down what humours are in the body to the parts affected.

The most effectual remedy, that I know of, for this disorder, is as follows: put your horse to feed on the best hay possible, about fourteen pounds per day, and as much good wheaten straw as he can moderately eat: give him half a peck of bran, three times a day, moistened with water—add two tea spoonfuls of sulphur, each time, to the quantity. During this regimen of diet, take three drachms of aloes,

* Nothing is more injurious than washing horses feet and legs, particularly in cold weather, and leaving them *wet*.—Were grooms to let *their* hands dry without wiping them, after being washed, they would soon be convinced of the absolute necessity of rubbing their horses legs dry at all times; the more so, if the least appearance of inflammation, cracks, &c. should be perceptible.

I have to remark on this subject, that, in the course of forty years practice, I have known more diseases in the legs proceed from an unpardonable neglect of this nature, than even from the bad habit of body of the animal.

two

two ditto of rhubarb; a quarter of ditto of ginger, all in fine powder; dissolve the whole in a pint of hot table-beer, or ale; give this mixture, when cool, every morning, with the assistance of a horn, or bottle, keeping the horse half an hour without eating before and after the dose.—Repeat the same until he purges moderately; suppose, four, or six days; then omit the draught until the purging is diminished, for one or two days; (at the same time not neglecting the sulphur and mash, as described) after which, repeat the draught six or eight days more, or until he again purges.—You will then omit the draught for three or four days, as before, and proceed in this manner until an alteration for the better be discovered: then in such case, give the draught only every third, fifth, or seventh, until he is completely cured: should the heels be very bad, and sores deep, apply the Egyptian ointment one day, and the tar ointment the other: *(See Index, at words Egyptian and tar ointments, &c.)* bathing the sore with a little arquebusade water; a little tow and a roller of canvass will assist in keeping the dressing proper.

During the cure, gentle exercise, attentive grooming, and hand-rubbing the swelled legs, will greatly assist in promoting his recovery. You may, on the horse's convalescence, give a few oats, with carrots sliced among them; the water, in order the more to hasten the cure, may be made moderately sweet with honey, or treacle, namely, half a pound dissolved in a quart of boiling water; after which pour it into a pail of cold water, and give it every night and morning, by way of diet-drink. I have known some horses to be entirely free from this disease, strictly following the above remedy, in the course of twelve days—others in a month: if the horse is turned into a large stable, or stall, well littered, it may induce him

him to lie down, consequently, will expedite the cure, as will also a little grass, if in the summer months.

I have here to notice, that aloes will have a better effect when administered in small quantities, than in the usual way: giving it, thus, it will strengthen while it cleanses the intestines, it will purge the brain, and resist the corruption of humours; this is the reason why it is so much used in pills, namely, the best succotrine: for my part, I know no better purgative, nor one so friendly to the nature of horses.

The following are three Receipts, perhaps the most valuable that ever appeared in any Publication of this Nature:——First, a Veterinary general restorative Powder, for Horses that have been ridden hard, are subject to a Cough, &c.

Take of linseed in fine powder, eight ounces; of carraway-seed, cummin-seed, anniseed, fenugreek, carthamus, and coltsfoot, in ditto, three ounces each; of liquorice root, in ditto, eight ounces; of flowers of benjamin, one ounce; flowers of sulphur, one ounce; mix the whole well together. Give the horse two ounces of this powder, in a quarter of a peck of good malt, made into a mash; and this, exclusive of his usual quantity of corn, twice a day, for a fortnight, or three weeks together. This is, perhaps, one of the best restoratives for horses, after a violent day's hunting, that the ingenuity of man can devise.—it removes all obstructions of the bowels, increases respiration, and adds vigour and strength to the whole frame, cures chronic diseases, arising from over-heated blood, such as colds, coughs, inward decays, and, in short, prevents all such diseases.

Second,

Second, a Veterinary Opodeldoc, for strained Shoulders, Wrenches in the Haunches, every Kind of Bruise, Swelling, Contusion, and the like; whether from Falls, Blows, or similar Accidents; for refreshing and fortifying the Legs of a Horse, when fatigued by long Journeys, or when Horses are subject to Rheumatic and Paralytic Complaints; and I am here free to confess, that, in the extensive Course of my Practice, I have never found a more efficacious, nor a more general Medicine for the above-mentioned Accidents, Diseases, &c. not only as proper to be used for a Horse, but as being of astonishing Virtue when aptly administered to the human Species of all Ages, and both Sexes, where Nature affords no Nourishment to the Part afflicted.

When horses have been strained in the shoulder, and neglected, from the duration of such complaint, and through extreme pain, the part becomes withered, almost void of feeling, and, in a great measure, motionless; so that it may, with much propriety, be said to be a dead member, attached to a living body; and, unless a powerful ALKALI be administered, for the purpose of extinguishing this unnatural heat, the part affected will be for ever incapable of resuming its primitive and original functions—this happens to horses that have received a hurt in the foot, which prevents them from setting it to the ground for a month or two. If the hurt be before, it is the shoulder, if behind, it is the haunch, which is thus withered and consumed, and this, on account of its having been too long deprived of nutriment, and debarred

barred from its due exercise, so infinitely conducive to natural warmth.

People may conceive that I err against the first principles, by attempting to restore animation to a part so dreadfully affected—but in fact, it is otherwise; and it will be found that the affected member still retains sufficient heat, when aided by some powerful alkali, to recover that which was lost, and to restore it to its former energy and vigour; and whoever inspects this method with a scientific eye will immediately discover that it rests on the broad basis of philosophy.

Recipe for making the Veterinary Opodeldoc Ointment.

Take of dried roots of marshmallows, comfrey, gentian, long birthwort, angelica, of each one ounce and a half; of ladies' mantle, mouse-ear, adder's tongue, sage, lavender, ground-ivy, a handful; of juniper-berries, cummin, castor, camphire and garden mustard-seed, of each one ounce, reduced into powder; put the whole into a glass vessel and pour thereon one quart of spirits of wine; cover it with the top of an alembeck that has no aperture to it: this vessel is admirably calculated to make the ingredients blend properly together. To prove your spirits of wine, put a small quantity of gunpowder into a spoon, filled with the said spirits, set fire to the liquor, which, if genuine, will cause an explosion of the powder instantaneously to take place.

In order to make up the medicine, if you have no glass vessel, make use of a thin retort with a long neck, the two-thirds of which must be empty when all the ingredients are in; in the mouth of the retort, place another small one with the bottom upwards—

this

this is called a meeting vessel, that thus the ingredients may mix together in the most perfect manner; cover the joints of the retort with thick paper, which rub over with the white of an egg; confine the whole with a thread, and let the materials undergo the process of fire, as follows: place your retort in the exact centre of a boiler, suspended, and so fixed as not to move backwards nor forwards; put some straw between the bottom of the retort and the boiler, for the purpose of keeping them about two fingers breadth asunder; this part of the process is to last ten hours, during eight of which the water is to be so warm, as scarcely to allow you to keep your finger in it; and during the two remaining hours the heat must be increased, but not so as to cause it to boil: by this method the ingredients, contained in the retort, will dissolve, blend together, and completely unite; the spirits of wine will attract and assume the tincture of the various simples, in which their sanative qualities are principally contained.

The spirits of wine having thus attracted the tincture of the roots, of the powders, and of the vulnerary herbs, let the whole cool, strain it well through a linen cloth, put back the spirits into the retort, as before, add thereto a pound of mottled castile soap, cut into thin slices, and put the retort again into the boiler, till the soap shall be so incorporated with the spirits of wine, that the whole may form an ointment: you must then take your retort out of the boiler, and let its contents cool: it is in this soap that the alkali, which I have mentioned, is contained; it is this alkali that is to consume and destroy, in fact, a real fire, which is devouring the shoulder, &c.

If you have minutely attended to the mode I have pre-

prescribed for making this salutary ointment, you will find it neither too thick nor too thin; and the better to ascertain whether you have perfectly succeeded in the process, rub a little of it on your hand; if it leave behind it a GREENISH hue, though the natural colour of the ointment be BROWN, then, and only then, you may be sure you have acted agreeably to my instructions.

To apply this valuable and intrinsically excellent medicine with effect, the injured part must first be well chafed, by rubbing it properly with flannel; after which the ointment is to be put on and rubbed into the skin; repeat the application seven or eight times, not omitting, at each time, to rub in the ointment with good spirits of wine, which is to be applied gradually and rubbed in by regular degrees, that the ointment may penetrate thoroughly—a gill of spirits of wine to be consumed at each application; if it should raise a lather while the ointment is rubbing in, you are not to discontinue till you have entirely exhausted the quantity of spirits abovementioned.

The opodeldoc is to be used cold, and it is of a nature so extremely penetrative, that, in one application, the whole of the ointment, composed agreeably to my method, might be exhausted; but infinite care is to be taken to employ it with becoming moderation, each time, that it may assist the natural heat in vivifying the affected member, and in restoring it to its wonted tone and native vigour.

The opodeldoc, as has been already stated, has been found of almost general utility when administered to the human species.

I have particularly experienced its excellent effects on a horse of mine, to which, during a very long excursion, I allowed no very extraordinary repose;

it

it is true he was led by one of my people, but it is equally so that, in a short time, by the aid of this ointment ALONE, he recovered his accustomed strength and vivacity.

Should you find it necessary to apply the opodeldoc to very fleshy parts; for instance, to the shoulder, &c. before the part is dry, and before the application can have produced the wished for effect, you are to repeat it: indeed, it would not be amiss to anoint it one day, and the next, to be careful in rubbing the ointment in well with the spirits of wine, as I have already directed; and so on in uninterrupted succession for sixteen or eighteen days.

There are thousands of people ready to vouch for the efficacy of this medicine: several coach and saddle horses, (whose shoulders were entirely decayed and dried up, in consequence of having been neglected, after having received an injury of the kind before specified,) who were as lame as can possibly be conceived, were radically cured by it, proved useful to their owners, and never after experienced the smallest inconvenience from the former complaint; —but you are to take particular care that, for a month, or more, the horse be not worked at all; and after that space of time, that he be only walked about for a quarter of an hour, the first day; then, by degrees, to take more exercise, in order that the injured part may be more effectually restored.

People, who incautiously work their cattle too soon, not only renew the complaint, but render all further attempts to effect a cure impossible.

The ointment will not injure a hair on the decayed shoulder, &c.—it is of infinite efficacy in sprained legs, in strengthening the limbs of horses, to those that are apt to stumble. I have witnessed such astonishing cures by the application of the opodeldoc-

ointment,

ointment, that I do not hesitate to recommend it most strenuously to those who are fond of horses —and even for the use of man I advise it; having, in various instances, found the greatest benefit from its effects, as well as from the following Veterinary Arquebusade.

Veterinary Arquebusade for Horses that have received Wounds, whether from Muskets, Swords, or sharper Instruments, of whatever kind, or that have been staked in leaping, torn in any Direction, broken in the Knees, &c.; also for Swellings, Bruises, and Contusions of the Legs, or Body; Cuts in any Direction, Depth, Width, or Extent, even when the Members are divided, particularly during a Campaign, or Accidents when exercising—nothing will be found more Effectual in such Cases than the Arquebusade, as follows.

Astley's Manner of Making his Veterinary Arquebusade.

Take leaves of the greater and lesser comfrey, cut small, of each two handfuls; birthwort, soapwort, and galangal, of each three drachms; zedoary, cut small, half an ounce: pound the whole, but not too fine; crabs-eyes, four ounces, also powdered fine; put the whole into a new pot, to which add four pints of the clearest and best white wine; cover the pot with the utmost care, and let it infuse two days in a sand-heat; after which, place it on a moderate fire for one day; then boil it for half an hour—strain it off, according to art, and, when cool, draw off the clear part, and cork it up in a bottle for use. This excellent medicine cures wounds in general.

THE END.

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